

201 Lang, Robert Edward.

23 December 1943

SUBJECT: Appointment in the Army of the United States.

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, War Department, Washington, D. C.

1. Request that necessary waiver of procurement objective be provided as directed in paragraph 2 b, Memorandum of the Secretary of War, dated 13 October 1943, and that authority be granted to the Commanding General, North African Theater, to commission Technical Sergeant Robert Edward Lang, 33455619, in the Army of the United States in the grade of Second Lieutenant.

2. An application for the commissioning of Technical Sergeant Lang was submitted to the Officer Procurement Service and disapproved by the Secretary of War's Personnel Board on 15 July 1943. The application, together with the following additional papers, is submitted for reconsideration:

New Job description  
New WDAGO Form 63 and waiver.

3. The application is resubmitted in view of a cable urgently requesting the commissioning of Sergeant Lang from EXDET ALGIERS (OSS Office), Cable No. 16304, dated 17 December 1943, which is paraphrased for your information:

"Due to lack of officers with experience in OSS agent cipher systems the operation of the greatly expanded Algiers and forward Message Centers are encountering serious difficulties. Because OSS operations are so closely allied with those of G-2 and G-3 of AFHQ, the inspection of message centers at forward bases is a necessary security requirement. Cipher and cipher equipment cannot be carried by non-commissioned personnel nor can they maintain contacts in the various localities with signal intelligence officers. Sgt Robert Lang is the only man in the OSS Algiers office who has sufficient background and training for the assignment aside from the commissioned officer in charge of the office for whom it is impractical and impossible to perform his present duties and in addition those desired and necessary to be performed by Sgt Lang."

4. The request for the appointment of Technical Sergeant Lang to commissioned status for specific assignment in the North African Theater is, in the opinion of this Headquarters, justified for the following reasons:

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐  
DATE: 19-Aug-2009

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a. Applicant's services in a commissioned status are immediately necessary as the work to be done is urgent and cannot be performed by Sergeant Lang in his present non-commissioned status, and as the OSS officer presently assigned is unable to effectively manage the OSS Algiers communications office and maintain proper liaison with the message centers at forward bases in view of the greatly expanded operations of both assignments.

b. Applicant is in a scarce category of specialized skill in view of his 21 months of training and indoctrination in the Office of Strategic Services and there is not available in the Army an officer with the OSS training of the applicant for the assignment.

c. Applicant is now in the Theater and at the station to which he will be assigned upon commissioning, which will alleviate the procuring of an officer from the Army and the four to six months indoctrination and training necessary for an officer to properly function in the assignment.

d. The applicant has proven his ability and his capacity for performing the urgent and the immediately important assignment for which his commission is desired is unquestioned.

5. If the appointment is approved, it is requested that the Commanding General, North African Theater, be cabled authorization to commission Sergeant Lang in the Army of the United States in the grade of Second Lieutenant and that he be assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C., with permanent station 2677th Headquarters Company, Experimental (Prov), AFHQ.

6. A vacancy for the assignment of Sergeant Lang in a commissioned status to this organization exists.

For and in the absence of the Director:

CHARLES S. CHESTON  
Acting Assistant Director.

3 Incls.  
Incl 1 - Job description  
Incl 2 - WDAGO Form 68(in trip)  
Incl 3 - Application for  
          appointment

SECRET